International Weather and Crop Summary

September 3 - 9, 2000
International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries
provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Scattered showers in southeastern Europe arrived too late to help drought-stricken summer crops but provided some much-needed rain for winter wheat planting.

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably warm, dry weather favored fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting in southern Russia, while widespread rain in Ukraine and northern Russia interrupted fieldwork.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Unseasonably warm, dry weather allowed rapid spring grain harvesting in Russia and Kazakstan.

AUSTRALIA: Wet weather continued over the southeast, increasing moisture reserves for vegetative to reproductive winter crops.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Tropical Storm Wukong made landfall in north-central Vietnam, while Tropical Storm Bopha made landfall in northern Luzon, Philippines.

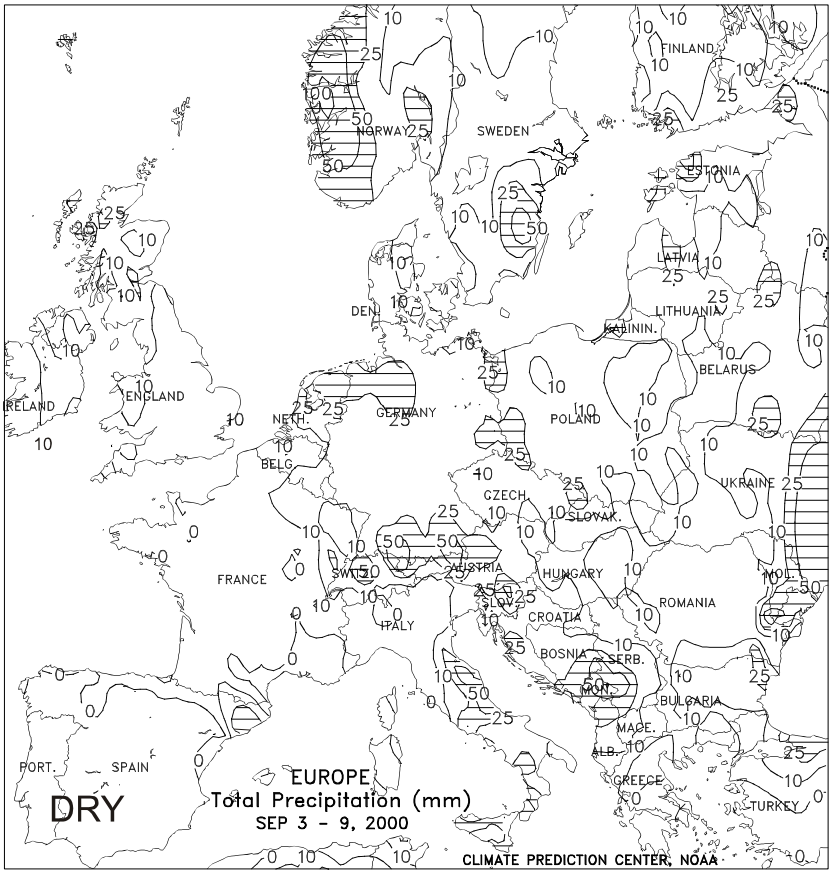
SOUTH ASIA: Locally heavy rain persisted in northern and eastern rice areas, despite an overall decline in monsoon activity.

EASTERN ASIA: Across the North China Plain and central China, rain boosted soil moisture for winter wheat planting but slowed early summer crop harvesting.

SOUTH AMERICA: In south-central Brazil, unseasonably heavy showers boosted soil moisture for summer crop planting and coffee flowering. In central Argentina, soil moisture was adequate for vegetative winter wheat, except in Cordoba where rain is needed.

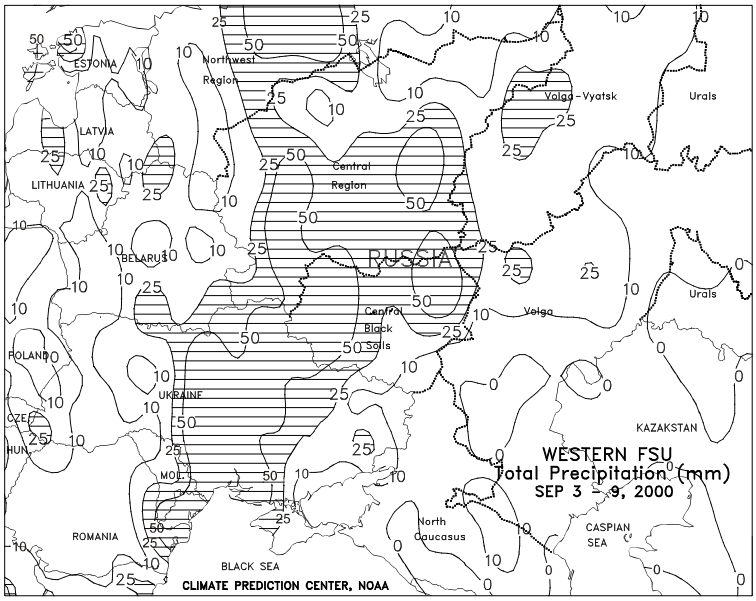
CANADA: Rain restricted fieldwork in Manitoba.

MEXICO: Drier weather reduced moisture supplies for corn across the main corn belt.



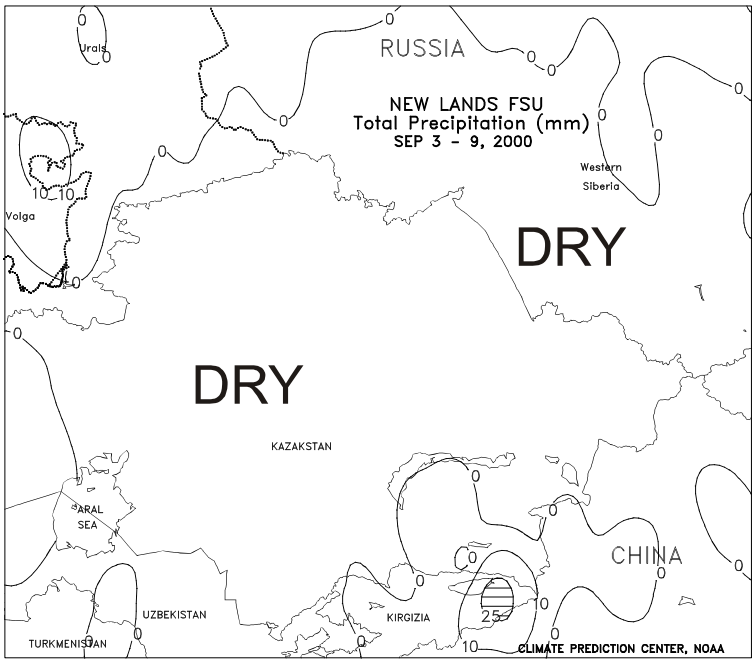
EUROPE

In western Europe, mostly dry weather favored fieldwork from England southward through France into the Iberian peninsula. Winter wheat is approximately 75 percent harvested in England, while sunflower harvesting is likely well advanced in France. Sunflower harvesting is reportedly progressing across the Iberian peninsula, and corn harvesting recently began in extreme southern Spain. In central Europe, occasional showers (10-25 mm) from Scandinavia southward through Germany into central Italy maintained adequate moisture supplies for filling to maturing summer crops. Periods of dry weather allowed late winter wheat harvesting to progress in the north and encouraged early summer crop harvesting elsewhere. Scattered showers (4-30 mm) in eastern Europe arrived too late to help drought-stricken summer crops in the southeast, but provided some much-needed topsoil moisture for winter grain planting. The rain caused only minor interruptions in sunflower and early corn harvesting. Additional soaking rains will be needed in upcoming weeks, especially from Hungary southward through Bulgaria to relieve long-term drought and ensure proper seed germination and establishment of the 2001 winter grain crop.



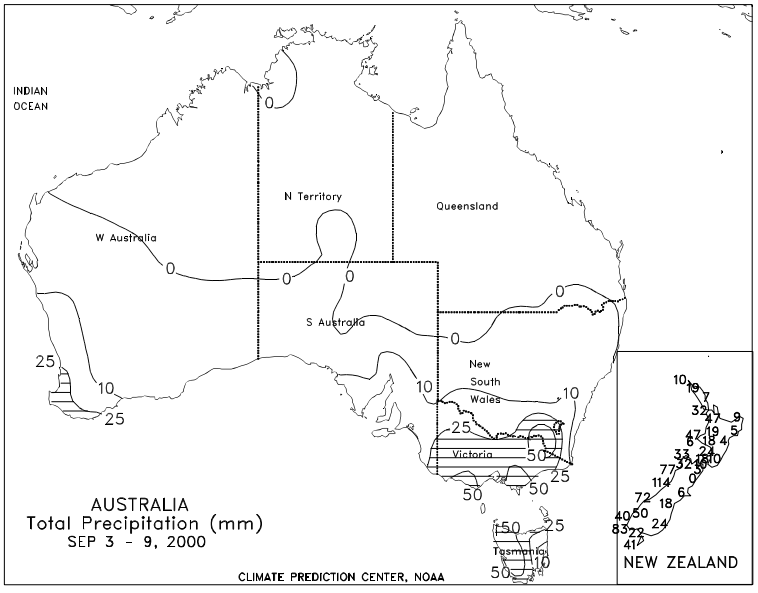
FSU-WESTERN

In Russia, widespread rain (10-50 mm or more) fell across northern and central areas (Central Region, Central Black Soils Region, and the Volga Vyatsk), slowing late spring grain harvest activities, but providing abundant topsoil moisture for winter grain emergence. Furthermore, the combination of abundant soil moisture and above-normal temperatures favored rapid winter grain emergence and crop establishment. Farther south, unseasonably warm weather was accompanied by little, if any, precipitation in the lower Volga Valley and North Caucasus, helping fieldwork for early summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal in these areas, promoting rapid maturity of summer crops. In Ukraine, widespread rain (10-75 mm or more) interrupted fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, but provided abundant topsoil moisture for winter wheat emergence and establishment. The greatest amounts of rain (50-100 mm) were observed in central Ukraine. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in western Ukraine and 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in the eastern half of the country.



FSU-NEWLANDS

In Russia and Kazakstan, unseasonably warm, dry weather favored spring grain maturation and rapid harvest activities. Weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 7 degrees C above normal in Russia and Kazakstan, with extreme maximum temperatures rising into the low 30's degrees C in Kazakstan. In Russia, reports as of September 11 indicated that the harvest of small grains and pulses, excluding corn, was about 72 percent completed. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, unseasonably warm, dry weather continued to favor boll maturation and early cotton harvesting.

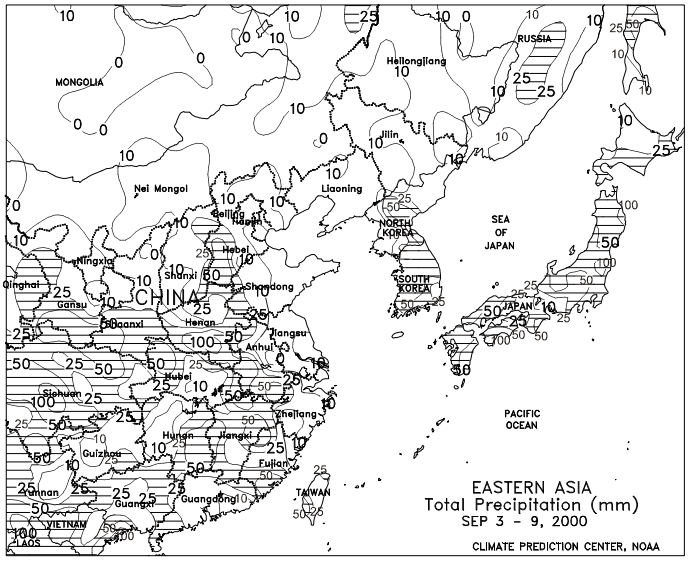


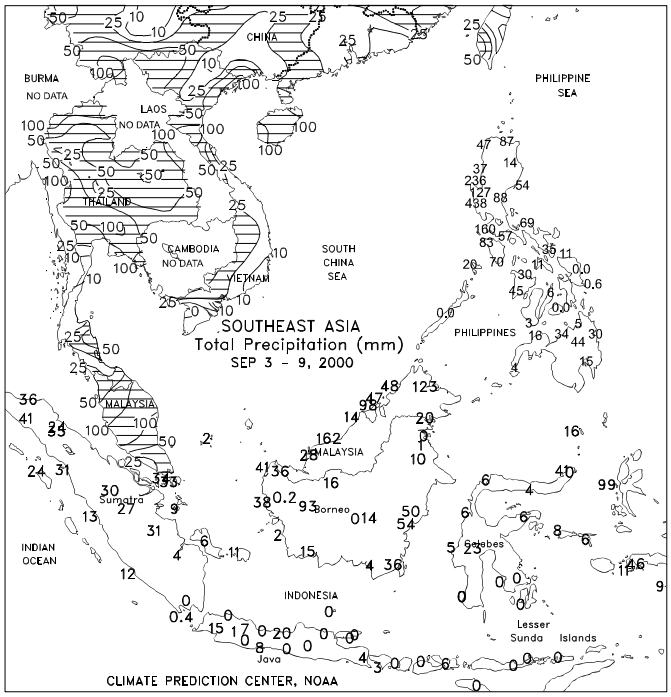
AUSTRALIA

Moderate to heavy rain (10-25 mm or more) continued to improve winter grain and oilseed prospects in the southeast (South Australia and Victoria). Lighter rain (15 mm or less) maintained generally favorable conditions in Western Australia and New South Wales for vegetative to reproductive winter crops. Seasonable temperatures sustained early crop development throughout the west and southeast. In contrast, warm, dry weather in southern Queensland advanced development of reproductive to filling wheat and barley, which needs rain immediately to prevent further declines in yield potential. In New Zealand, light to moderate showers (10-25 mm or more) covered the main agricultural districts.

EASTERN ASIA

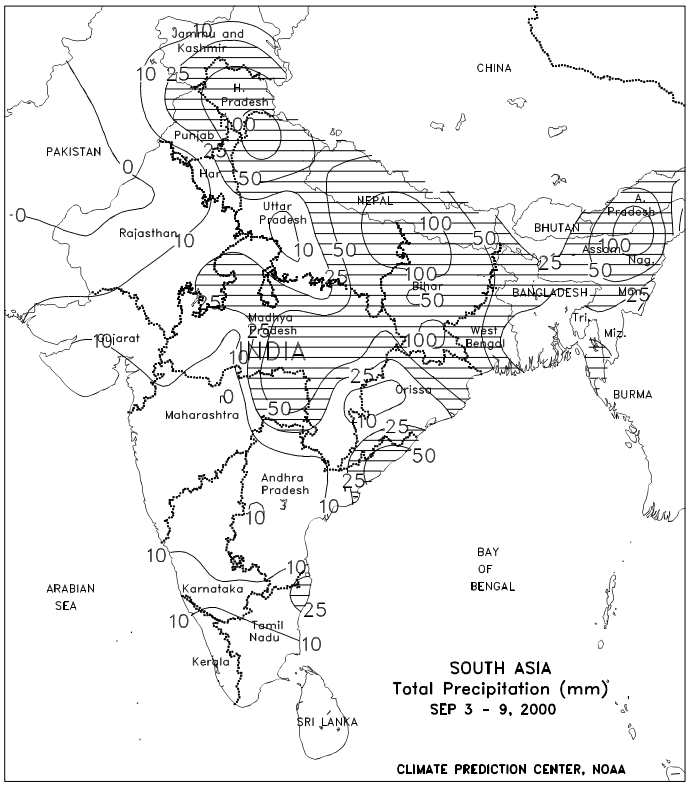
In Manchuria, light rain (10-20 mm) favored filling summer crops in the north (Heilongjiang), while drier weather (less than 10 mm) aided early harvesting in the south (Liaoning). Across the North China Plain and central and southern China, widespread showers (15-70 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) boosted soil moisture for winter crop planting, but slowed early harvesting of summer crops. Drier weather (less than 10 mm) prevailed across eastern Shandong and Jiangsu. On September 9, Typhoon Wukong brushed Hainan Island. While the storm did not make landfall, gusty winds and heavy rain (100-175 mm) possibly caused some damage to rice and sugarcane and slowed fieldwork. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above average in Manchuria and near normal elsewhere in China. Light to moderate rain (10-50 mm) caused only minor harvesting delays across the Korean peninsula. Widespread rain (20-60 mm) somewhat hampered rice maturation and early harvesting across Japan. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal across the Korean Peninsula and Japan.





SOUTHEAST ASIA

On September 10, Tropical Storm Wukong made landfall with winds of 60 knots (69 mph) in north-central Vietnam. Heavy rains (25-100 mm) were generally confined to coastal areas of the Red River Delta, delaying 10th month rice harvesting. Elsewhere in Vietnam, dry weather reduced moisture supplies for 10th month rice. Wukong weakened to a tropical depression (sustained winds less than 34 knots) and moved into Laos, just north of Thailand, bringing widespread showers (25-75 mm) to Thailand that increased moisture supplies for rice. Monsoon showers (50-200 mm) caused coastal flooding in southern and western Luzon, Philippines throughout the week, while Tropical Storm Bopha made landfall with winds of 45 knots (52 mph) in northern Luzon on September 11. Elsewhere in the Philippines, drier weather prevailed, reducing moisture for main-season rice. Moderate showers (25-50 mm) maintained moisture supplies for oil palm across peninsular Malaysia. Sunny, dry weather prevailed across Java, Indonesia, aiding second-crop rice development.

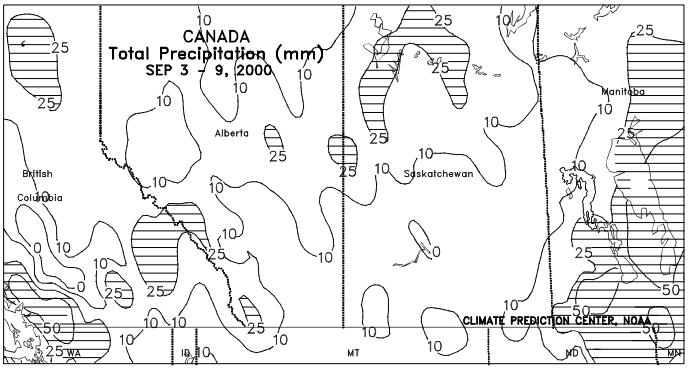


SOUTH ASIA

Pockets of heavy rain (100 mm or more) persisted over rice areas of northern and eastern India, fueling additional flooding. Locally heavy rain also continued in cotton areas of north-central India, maintaining unfavo rably wet conditions for open bolls. While the southwest monsoon typically begins its seasonal withdrawal from the northwest in mid-September, late surges have historically caused problems for maturing cotton in Pakistan and neighboring sections of India. Elsewhere, however, monsoon activity tapered off from recent weeks, with much of southern India recording less than 10 mm. Variable rain (5-66 mm) maintained generally favorable moisture levels in central India' ssoybean belt (western Madhya Pradesh), but the continuation of below-normal rainfall in Gujarat limited moisture for groundnuts and rainfed cotton.

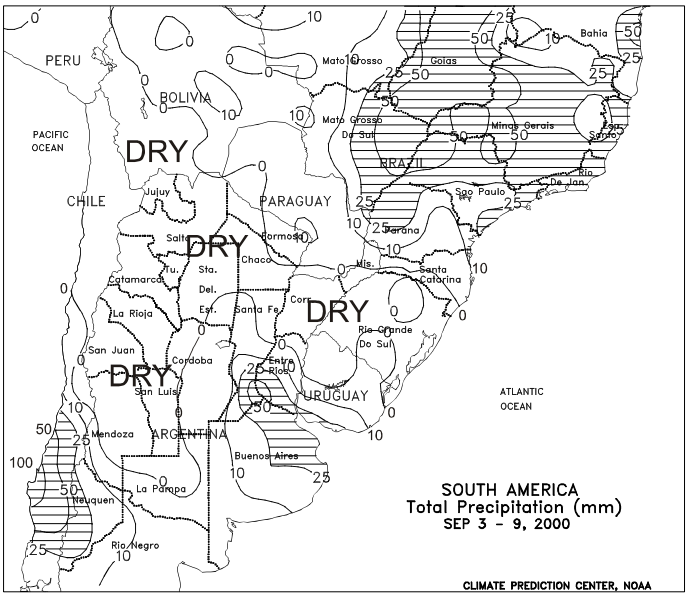
CANADA

Moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) impeded harvest activities across Manitoba. Much of the spring crop has reportedly been swathed and now needs drier weather to reduce the potential for quality degradations prior to combining. Showers were generally light and scattered in Alberta and Saskatchewan, with most locations receiving less than 10 mm. Moderate showers (10-15 mm) in Alberta' s Peace River Valley were especially unfavorable, following last week' s heavy precipitation. Temperatures averaged near to below normal in western growing areas and near to above normal in the east, with no major outbreaks of sub-freezing temperatures. In eastern Canada, dry, seasonably mild weather aided corn and soybean development. High temperatures ranged from the low to mid 20's degrees C, with no unseasonable cold reported in the main growing areas.



SOUTH AMERICA

In southern Brazil, unseasonably heavy showers (30-80 mm) covered northern Parana, eastern Mato Grosso do Sul, Goias, Sao Paulo, and Minas Gerias, boosting soil moisture for early corn planting and coffee and citrus flowering. These regions do not usually receive moderate to heavy rain this early in the season. In fact, in Goias and Minas Gerias, weekly rain typically averages less than 10 mm per week in early September. Across Rio Grande do Sul, eastern Santa Catarina, and eastern Parana, little or no rain reduced soil moisture for reproductive to filling winter wheat. Rio Grande do Sul is typically the wettest portion of southern Brazil during September. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C below normal across the Goias, Minas Gerais, and Sao Paulo and 1 to 2 degrees C above normal in Rio Grande do Sul. In Argentina, light to moderate rain (10-40 mm) fellacross southern Santa Fe and eastern Buenos Aires, increasing soil moisture for vegetative winter wheat. In southern Cordoba, mostly dry weather reduced soil moisture for vegetative winter wheat. Dry weather also continued across northern Argentina, where rain is needed for cotton pre-planting fieldwork. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across central Argentina, with the lowest temperatures ranging from 0 to -3 degrees C confined to south-central Buenos Aires. According to the Argentine Agriculture Secretariat, as of September 8, a majority of tillering winter wheat is in good condition with adequate soil moisture. The only concern is the lack of rainfall in Cordoba, where winter wheat had started to yellow. Sunflower planting began in Santiago del Estero and northern Santa Fe.



MEXICO

Drier weather (5-10 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 25 mm) prevailed across the main corn belt, reducing moisture supplies for corn. Dry weather dominated northwestern and north-central Mexico. Moderate showers (10-50 mm) fell along the lower Rio Grande Valley. Widespread showers (25-100 mm) boosted moisture supplies across southeastern Mexico (Yucatan Peninsula, southern Veracruz, and Tabasco). Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across most of Mexico.